

# THE HARTFORD HERALD.

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37th YEAR.

HARTFORD, KY., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1911.

NO. 50

## MINERS KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Over One Hundred Met  
Horrible Death.

## ENTOMBED FAR IN THE EARTH

Weeping and Distracted Women  
and Children Crowd  
Around the Shaft.

## PROBABLY A DUST EXPLOSION

Bridgeville, Tenn., Dec. 9.—That every miner of the number who walked into the Cross Mountain mine at Briceville this morning met death in a dust explosion which occurred within one hour after they started work, is a foregone conclusion at midnight to-night.

Although rescuers have been at work for hours and although every known piece of apparatus in the mine rescue service has been put to use, there is little doubt but that every man is dead.

The force of the explosion, was terrific and the hope that any one could survive such a shock is beyond belief. Between 126 and 156 men "checked in" this morning. The books of the company are not available as to the exact number.

### Details of the Horror.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 9.—For the second time in ten years a great mine disaster has made the Knoxville colliery district echo with the sobs and moans of women and children—relatives of the men whose lives were snuffed out in a flash as they worked.

Two hundred and twenty-five men—perhaps more, perhaps less—are entombed in the Cross Mountain mine near Briceville.

The possibility that any is alive is so slight that it was practically admitted that not one of them will escape. An explosion of blasting powder or coal dust rocked the earth to-day within a few minutes after the shift had gone to work.

Three of the men, fortunately, late to their work, were in the passage leading to the working pit two miles into the bowels of the earth. They heard the crash and turning, fled for their lives. Of the many who descended they are the only ones who came out alive.

Horror-stricken, they crawled to the surface and gave the alarm. In an hour rescue parties were organized and started into the shaft.

But the rescue parties were impotent. Almost as soon as they descended a column of smoke trickled from the mouth of the cavern. A few seconds later it became a thick, black pillar and the rescuers, choking and blinding rushed to the air.

At a late hour to-night rescuers had succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but had been unable to penetrate the drift on account of the gas.

The explosion is believed to have occurred two miles from the opening and about 800 feet below the surface. All of the men who were in the mine were working within a few hundred feet of the hole and it is possible they were killed at the first blast.

If any survived, the fire damp would have choked out their lives before now.

The great air fans were kept pumping at top speed throughout the day and night in the hope that some one was alive and might, with proper air, be rescued.

Rescue parties time after time attempted to descend into the workings, but were driven back. Once the body of a miner was found. It was brought to the surface and identified as that of Lee Paulson.

The entombed men are walled in by thousands of tons of slate and coal which were scattered loose from the walls by the force of the explosion.

As news of the disaster spread throughout the Briceville district, men left their posts in other workings and hastened to join the rescuers.

Women, wild-eyed and disheveled, ran shrieking to the mouth of the pit and attempted to enter what would have been a place of certain death. Scores of men dragged

them back and with rude efforts tried to cheer them.

With the coming of the Federal car No. 7 to-night, it was learned that it had arrived before the mouth of the shaft was sufficiently cleared of smoke and deadly damp to make possible an entrance.

The Federal rescue crew was powerless. It could make no headway in the smoke that filled the pit, and the announcement that nothing could be done was received with tremendous sobs from the hysterical men and women who surrounded the opening.

Hundreds of wives and mothers, sweethearts and children stood with tense, drawn faces, sobbing the whole day and night through.

Whether the explosion came from coal dust or blasting powder, is a mystery. Within the last three weeks the mine had been inspected by a Federal inspector and an inspector for an insurance company which insured the lives of miners, and pronounced the mine safe.

J. F. Matmaker, inspector for the Cross Mountain system of mines, went into the shaft yesterday and pronounced it perfectly safe.

The Cross Mountain mine is one of a chain owned by the Knoxville Iron Company, and has been in operation for more than twenty years.

The mining district near here has a tragical history. Not ten years ago, on the morning of May 19, 1902, the terrible Fraterville disaster snuffed out at one stroke the lives of 187 men and boys.

Most of these were killed in the explosion.

Already a relief fund has been started and an appeal sent for food and clothing for the families of the miners in the mine. With winter upon them, many are without enough money to last more than a few days, and it is feared famine will add to the horror of the situation. Several thousand dollars have been subscribed in Knoxville alone.

Hugh LaRue was saved from death by one of those mysterious premonitions which frequently are heard of in great disasters. Mrs. LaRue this morning begged him not to go to work and told him that she had had a terrible dream.

She said that in her vision she and their children were standing about the open mouth of a mine, while rescue parties brought out the bodies of men who had been killed by an explosion.

LaRue, impressed by the dream, decided to remain at home. Within an hour the explosion came.

The mine was operated by non-union men, but John F. Bowder, president of District 19, United Mine Workers of America, offered the services of his men for rescue work. He said that the union would do all in its power to help the men.

### Rescue Progress Slow.

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 10.—Somewhere in the depths of the Cross Mountain Coal Mine probably 100 men lie dead to-night, while their sorrow-stricken families keep vigil at the mouth of their tomb, hoping against hope that their loved ones may be alive when rescuers reach them.

In spite of the heroic efforts to reach the 100 to 150 victims of the ill-fated Cross Mountain mine of the Knoxville Iron Company, only eight dead bodies had been recovered and removed up to 5:30 o'clock this evening. Prospects were that it would be far into the night before much greater progress was made in reaching the victims and indeed, many days may elapse until the mine is cleared of its debris, which is seriously and effectively impeding the progress of the seekers of the dead.

## LOGAN COUNTY FARMER KILLS HIS NEIGHBOR

Russellville, Ky., Dec. 8.—James J. Dean shot and killed Pat White at Buena Vista Springs early this morning. One shot was fired from a double-barreled shotgun and White fell dead. Both were farmers and neighbors living only about 200 yards apart, and are said to have had previous trouble. Immediately after the killing Dean came to town and surrendered to the Sheriff. He is now under guard and his examining trial is set for tomorrow before County Judge Edwards.

Dean is 40 years old and White was younger.

At the time of the killing they were only a few feet apart. Dean has a wife and eight children and White leaves a widow and three children.

## TOBACCO CENSUS BILL MEETS NO OPPOSITION

Representative Cantrill's Measure  
Passes the House by  
Unanimous Vote.

Washington, Dec. 8.—After listening to the third reading of the Cantrill bill, the House passed it unanimously to-day.

Senator Bradley, when he heard that the bill had passed, said: "I am warmly in favor of the measure and shall push it through the Senate to the best of my ability."

"The bill as passed by the House to-day is legislation sought for by the tobacco growers of Kentucky," said Mr. Cantrill. "In my judgment it will be of untold benefit to them in the future. This bill is along the same lines as the bill that I introduced some time ago to Gov. McCreary, asking him to recommend it to the Kentucky Legislature for passage."

"As Kentucky produces one-half the tobacco grown in the United States and as the House has seen fit by unanimous vote to stand by the tobacco growers, there is every reason why the Kentucky Legislature should follow up this work so as to secure its full benefit. I trust every member of the Kentucky Legislature will carefully consider this matter and be prepared to stand by the tobacco growers when the Legislature convenes."

The bill is destined to make Mr. Cantrill famous. It is his idea, and although the text has been slightly changed by the committee to meet objections, it will go on the statute books as the Cantrill act, and mostly in his own words.

The bill provides for a semi-annual census report of the amount of manufactured leaf tobacco in the hands of dealers and manufacturers above a certain grade, and will enable tobacco growers to have price-fixing information.

## SUED FOR TAXES ON UNLISTED PROPERTY

Hopkinsville, Ky., Dec. 9.—After several days and nights at hard work over the records in the County Clerk's office, J. P. Whittinghill, representing State Revenue Agent J. W. Huhtzman, has filed a number of suits for alleged back taxes from 1906 to 1911. Several of the suits are for inheritance tax and others charge Hopkinsville citizens with failing to list their diamonds.

The two largest suits are against the administrators and the heirs of the late John C. Latham. Among the legatees named as defendants in the inheritance tax cases are the city of Hopkinsville, Grace Episcopal church, Mrs. Elsie Gaylord Latham and members of the Allen family. The Latham estate is also sued for back taxes on \$50,000 worth of Hopkinsville bonds, \$15,000 worth of railroad bonds, \$200,000 in cash and other items amounting to \$1,500,000.

Another large suit is against the late James K. Forbes' heirs, who are asked to pay back taxes on bequests aggregating \$210,000. Seven persons are sued for taxes on diamonds alleged to be worth \$85,000. Two representatives of the revenue agent are still at work here, and it is said that many more suits will shortly be filed.

## WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Washington, Dec. 11.—According to a report issued by the agricultural department to-day 32,648,000 acres were planted for the winter wheat crop of 1911, as compared with 29,311,000 for 1909, and 31,656,000 for 1910. It is estimated that the area in winter wheat in the fall of 1911 for the 1912 crop is approximately one-third per cent. less than that sown in the fall of 1910. The condition of the crop on December 1 was 88.6 per cent. normal, as compared with 82.5 per cent. and 95.8 per cent. at December 1, 1910 and 1909 respectively, and a ten-year average of 89.9 per cent.

### Verdict Set Aside.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 7.—The Court of Appeals to-day reversed the judgment of the Ohio Circuit Court in the case of Ira Cox against the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, and ordered a new trial. The plaintiff was awarded judgment for \$7,000 for personal injuries.

## JUDGE O'REAR RESIGNS FROM APPELLATE COURT

Successor to be Appointed for a  
Year—Judge Will Practice Law.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 9.—Judge Edward C. O'Rear, for the past 11 years a judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and during the last campaign the Republican nominee for Governor of Kentucky, to-day handed to Governor A. E. Wilson his resignation as a judge of the Appellate Court, and will, after to-day, practice law as a private citizen at Frankfort, Ky.

As Governor Wilson goes out of office Tuesday of next week, he must fill the place by appointment not later than that day or Governor-elect McCreary will make the appointment, which will last for a year. It is known, however, that Governor Wilson will exercise the power of appointment before he goes out of office, although no one knows whom he will select.

It is believed, however, that only four names will be considered in connection with the appointment: Mr. R. H. Winn, of Mt. Sterling, Judge Andrew Kirk, of Martin county, Judge Howard L. Faulkner, of Barbourville, and Judge W. L. Brown, of London.

Of these Mr. Winn and Mr. Kirk are considered the leading candidates, and the opinion is that Mr. Winn, who seems to be much the most strongly endorsed, will be named. The district, even in the landslide of last year, is heavily Republican. There are five years yet to run of Judge O'Rear's second term of eight years, but as the appointment by the Governor will last a year, the election to take place next November will be for four years.

During his eleven years' service upon the highest court in the State, Judge O'Rear has shown great powers as a lawyer, while his unusual capacities as a public speaker, as shown in the last campaign, is proof conclusive of his power as an advocate. It was stated to-day that Judge O'Rear has formed no partnership, but that he is already assured of a large clientele. He owns a beautiful country home, four miles from Frankfort, and will continue to reside there.

LATER—Judge Robert H. Winn, of Mt. Sterling, Ky., was named by Gov. Wilson as Judge O'Rear's successor on the Appellate Bench, Monday night about 12 o'clock.

## FIRE AT HENDERSON CAUSES \$30,000 LOSS

Henderson, Ky., Dec. 10.—Henderson's principal business block was damaged by fire at 2:30 o'clock this morning about \$30,000. The stock of the Louisville Store was almost entirely wiped out and the loss is estimated at \$20,000. The dry goods stock of the Peter Geibel Company and the stocks of Kirby's 5 and 10-Cent Store, I. B. Walker, hardware and stoves, and H. Pargny, confectionery, were damaged \$5,000 by water and smoke. The damage to the buildings is from \$5,000 to \$8,000. The losses are covered by insurance.

The fire started from an unknown cause in the Louisville Store, and for awhile the entire block was threatened. The buildings with the exception of the Peter Geibel store belong to Mann Bros. The Louisville Store stock was the property of the Mann estate.

There were 267 business failures in the United States during the week ended December 7, against 216 the week previous.

Bowling Green's new city council has issued liquor license to twelve applicants, thus putting Bowling Green back into the wet column for the first time in several years.

## WOMAN CHARGED WITH KIDNAPING OWN CHILD

Madisonville, Ky., Dec. 9.—Mrs. Ora Andres, twenty-three years old, of Springfield, Tenn., was arrested in this county Thursday afternoon on the charge of kidnaping her own child. Mrs. Andres was divorced from William Elliott, her first husband, and has since married James Andres. A girl, now three years old, was awarded to the father by the court. Mrs. Andres picked up

her child Saturday and came to Carbondale, this county, to visit her brother-in-law. She claims that she had heard that the child was being mistreated. She was taken back to Nashville late to-night by an officer from Springfield. She declared that she would never give up her daughter, and if compelled to, would take it again at the first opportunity.

## BURNED AT THE STAKE WHILE "PLAYING INDIAN"

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 9.—Reproducing "pioneer days," a crowd of boys "playing Indian" today tied Edward O'Rear Eversole, 11 years old, to a tree in the old Statehouse yard, piled leaves and dried grass around him and started a fire.

The would-be Indians then clapped their hands and pulled off a war dance. The child was burned so badly that he may not recover.

The fire spread until it threatened the historic old Statehouse.

A negro, hearing the cries of the burning lad, rescued him, and the mourners at a negro funeral put out the burning grass and saved the old Statehouse.

## MAN NEARLY SWALLOWED PEARLS WORTH \$500

New Rochelle, N. Y., Dec. 11.—A well-dressed man, who said he was M. V. Berlefech, salesman for the Best Manufacturing Company, of New Haven, Conn., got something in a hollow tooth while eating oysters on the half shell in a restaurant in Huguenot street this evening.

His toothpick dislodged a pearl about the size of a pea. He examined the other oysters on his plate and found five more pearls. He ate the oysters and ordered more. In the second helping he found more pearls and ordered a third, in which there were still more.

When he asked for more, the waiter said there were no more oysters in the house. Berlefech had 28 pearls of varying sizes. Edward Carson, a local jeweler, offered \$500 for the lot, which was refused.

## MAINE WAS BLOWN UP FROM EXTERNAL FORCE

Washington, Dec. 9.—The battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor by an explosion from the outside. This is the gist of a short statement issued by the Navy Department to-day, based on findings made by the joint Army and Navy Board, which spent several months in Havana harbor investigating the wreck.

The statement was as follows:

"The board finds that the injuries to the bottom of the Maine were caused by the explosion of a charge of low form of explosive, exterior to the ship between frames 28 and 31, Strake B, Port side."

"This resulted in igniting and exploding the contents of the six-inch reserve magazine, A-14-M, said contention including a large quantity of black powder. The more or less complete explosion of the contents of the remaining forward magazine followed. The magazine explosion resulted in the destruction of the vessel."

## K. of P. Election.

Rough River Lodge No. 110, Knights of Pythias, held a splendid meeting at Castle Hall Tuesday evening of last week, at which time officers were elected for the first half of 1912. The following were selected:

Chancellor Commander, W. R. Hedrick.  
Prelate, Albert Rial.  
K. of R. and S., J. Ney Foster, re-elected.  
Master of Work, H. E. Brown.  
Master of Exchequer, James Lyons, re-elected.  
Master of Arms, W. H. Rhoads.  
Inner Guard, U. S. Carson.  
Outer Guard, W. F. Anderson.  
Trustee, S. T. Barnett, re-elected.

## SAYS STATE INSTITUTIONS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 8.—In his final report on the examination of the affairs of all the State offices, McKenzie Todd, State Inspector, compliments all the officers upon the splendid condition their offices were found to be in, but recommends that the Secretary of State be required to give a bond. The inspector also compliments the condition of the insane asylums and their management.

According to the report of Postmaster General Hitchcock, the Post-office Department shows the first surplus since 1883.

## THE 1,000 CLASS INTRODUCTION

In Hartford on January 20,  
Next Year,

WILL BE A MAMMOTH AFFAIR

Woodmen of the World Meet  
and Perfect the Arrangements.

## OFFICERS FOR 1912 ELECTED

At the regular meeting of Magnolia Camp, No. 202, W. O. W., last Saturday night, the following committees were appointed to assist Major Russell, District Manager of District No. 9, in the One-Thousand-Class Introduction to be held in this city January 20, 1912:

Committee on Arrangements—Prof. W. R. Hedrick, P. D. Tweddell, J. B. Brown, Leslie Bennett, J. Ney Foster.

Reception Committee—Robt. Davis, F. C. Bennett, J. H. Williams, Owen Hunter, Dr. E. B. Pendleton. The following officers were elected for 1912: P. C. C., W. E. Stevens; Com., T. P. Williams; Adv. Lieut., W. H. Parks; Banker, R. S. Chamberlin; Clerk, W. C. Wallace; Escort, Ernest Stewart; Watchman, J. B. Brown; Sentry, Jas. Pirtle; Physician, E. B. Pendleton; Managers, J. Ney Foster, W. C. Liles, L. M. Lewis.

Quite a number of visitors were present, including Major Russell, District Manager, and Deputy W. A. Nave, of McHenry. The District Manager reports the Camp fires burning brightly all over the district. A number of new Camps are being organized that will be included in the mammoth demonstration to be held here January 20, 1912. Judge J. W. Wilson, of Madisonville, in the adjoining district, sends word that he will bring a large delegation from his district to see how District 9 does things, as other adjoining districts are planning to do.

Major Russell is working out the details for a District Meeting of the Woodmen Circle for the same time and place, as several Groves in the district have taken action and are demanding it. Any information desired by the Groves or members pertaining to the meeting can be had by addressing R. E. Russell, District Manager, Hartford, Ky.

## THE MCCOYS AND HATFIELDS ALL EMBRACE RELIGION

Williamsport, W. Va., Dec. 9.—Not to be outdone by the Hatfields, the McCoy's have also embraced religion, and it now looks as if the deadly Hatfield-McCoy feud, which has broken out intermittently during the past twenty-five or more years, is at an end for all time. Members of both the Hatfield and McCoy clans attended a big county Sunday School Convention here, coming miles through drizzling rain and snow, over roads almost impassable for vehicles. During the convention the Hatfields and McCoy's held a short family reunion, but it was a peaceful affair.

## BOWLING GREEN TOWN UP OVER CITY AFFAIRS

Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 9.—A lively fight is on here between the Council and the Mayor. The newly elected Council which went into office Monday night has already had its second meeting and passed on its final reading an ordinance abolishing the Board of Public Works, so that all this business will hereafter be transacted by committees from the Common Council.

The Council further desiring to take the appointment and control of the police force entirely out of the hands of the Mayor, attempted to pass an ordinance doing away with the Chief of Police and providing for a Town Marshal who should be elected by the Council and who would appoint his own deputies. This ordinance was, however, defeated on its second reading and the Mayor will now name the police force.

Ortie McManigal will be taken to Indianapolis in a few days to testify before the Federal grand jury in the dynamiting investigation. He says he will tell all he knows.